

7

SAINT IVES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

— :: —

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1971

— :: —

**LIST OF PARISHES
IN THE
COUNCIL'S AREA**

Bluntisham

Broughton

Bury

Colne

Earith

Fenstanton

Hemingford Abbots

Hemingford Grey

Hilton

Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Houghton and Wyton

Oldhurst

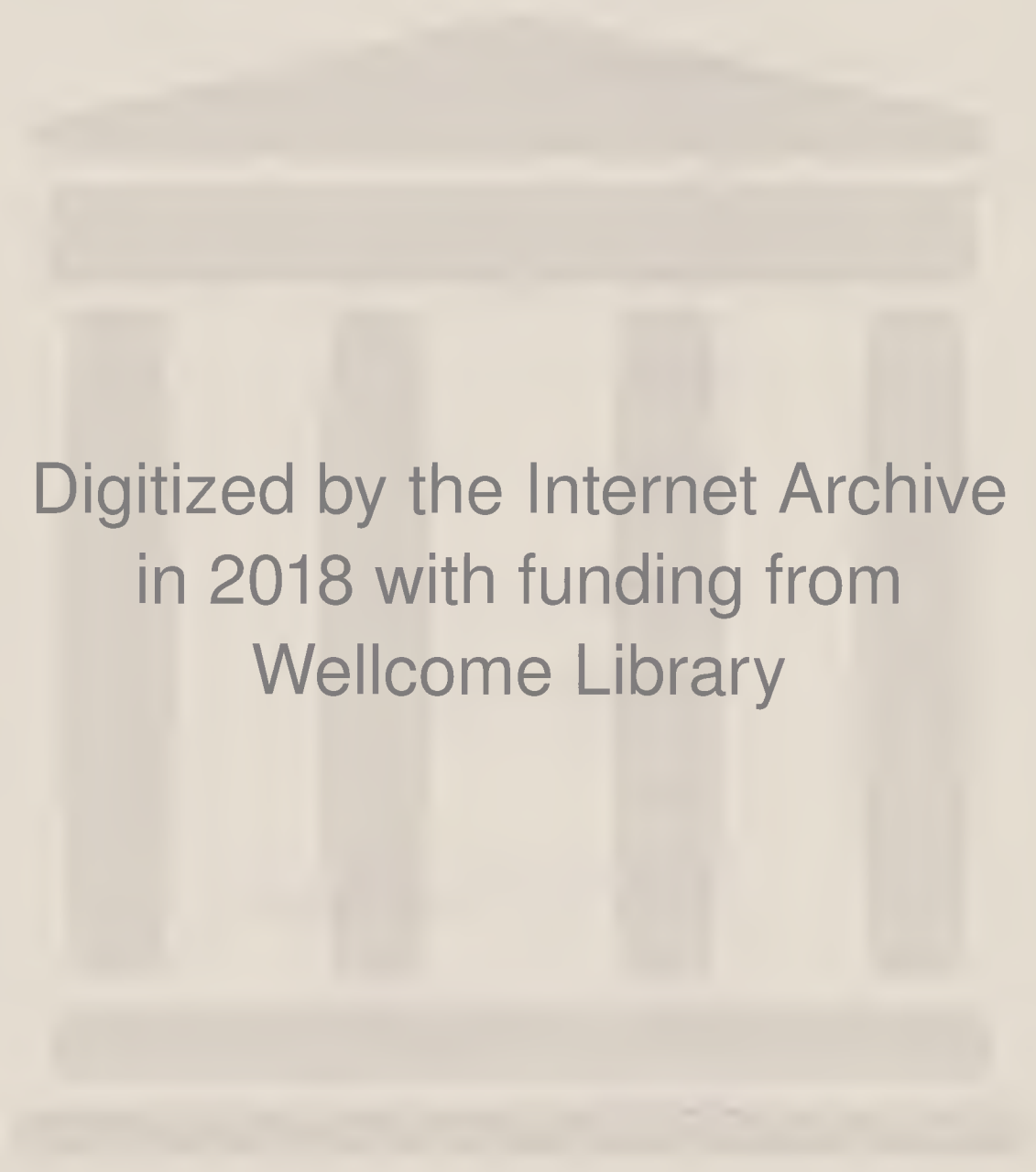
Pidley-cum-Fenton

Somersham

Warboys

Wistow

Woodhurst



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3012864x>

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington

Members of the Council:

Mrs. A. R. Buck	H. Jones, Esq.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E.
W. A. K. Dear, Esq.	M. F. Newman, Esq.
P. G. M. Dickinson, Esq.	H. E. Parren, Esq.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	H. Stott, Esq.
S. E. K. Falconer, Esq., C.C.	Canon N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
R. G. Fleming, Esq.	H. L. Warren, Esq.
J. W. Harris, Esq.	Revd. G. E. Wood
C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.	D. B. Wright, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

D. H. Burch, Esq.

Vice-Chairman:

S. E. K. Falconer, Esq., C.C.

Members:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.
W. A. K. Dear, Esq.	H. Stott, Esq.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	Canon N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	H. L. Warren, Esq.
R. G. Fleming, Esq.	Revd. G. E. Wood
J. W. Harris, Esq.	D. B. Wright, Esq.
H. Jones	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

P. A. Haggerty, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. J. E. Zavala

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF SAINT IVES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1971**

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
Saint Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1971.

Vital Statistics

Population – The estimated mid-year population, 19,190, has at last begun to show a significantly upward trend, there being an increase of 1,300 over the figure quoted for 1970. This is a pleasing feature to note and begins to correspond to the population one would expect judging by the considerable development which has been taking place in the District during the past few years.

Birth Rate – 404 live births were credited to the District in 1971 compared with 342 last year. This gives a corrected birth rate of 20·5 for 1,000 population — a figure which is 2·0 per 1,000 higher than in 1970 and 4·5 above the national average.

Deaths – There were 157 deaths of residents of the District this year — 17 more than in 1970 — giving a corrected death rate of 9·8 per 1,000 population. Although this rate is fractionally above last year's figure it is still well below the national average of 11·6.

Infant Mortality – Two infants died during the year before reaching the age of 12 months. This is three fewer than last year giving an infant mortality rate of 5 per 1,000 live births compared with 18 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole.

Infectious Diseases – The incidence of notifiable infectious disease almost disappeared during 1971, there being only 10 notifications received.

Social Conditions

Hospital Facilities – We were gratified to learn in a letter from the Chairman of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board in December that planning of the new Huntingdon Hospital is in an advanced stage and that the Hospital Board has submitted an outline planning proposal to the Department of Health and Social Security, giving a provisional assessment of the complete Huntingdon Hospital. It is envisaged that the new hospital will house a total bed compliment of around 500 beds allocated roughly as follows:-

General Acute	250
Obstetric	60
Geriatric	150
Psychiatric Acute	50
	510

It appears that the proposal for phase one of the new hospital will include a geriatric ward unit of at least 100 beds plus a geriatric day hospital.

The Regional Hospital Board hope that a start will be made on the construction of phase one during 1973 and that, subject to finance, it appears that there is no reason why construction of the complete hospital should not be carried out between 1975 and 1980.

It is hoped that the appropriate Government Department will make the necessary finance available.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Phipps and all other members of the Department's staff for their continuing support and hard work throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

SAINT IVES RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1971

Estimated mid-year population	.	.	.	19,190
Live Births	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	191	192	383	
Illegitimate	14	7	21	
Totals	205	199	404	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	.	.	.	21·1
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (·97)	.	.	.	20·5
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)	.	.	.	16·0
Still Births				
Legitimate	1	—	1	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Totals	1	—	1	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	.	.	.	2
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total live and still-births (England and Wales)	.	.	.	12
Deaths	83	74	157	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	.	.	.	8·2
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (1·20)	.	.	.	9·8
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)	.	.	.	11·6
Infant Mortality —				
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age				
Legitimate	—	2	2	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Totals	1	2	2	

Infant Mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	5
Infant Mortality rate (England and Wales)	18

Table classifying deaths under age groups

<i>Ages</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 4 weeks	—	2	2
4 weeks and under 1 year	—	—	—
1 and under 4 years	2	1	3
5 and under 14 years	1	—	1
15 and under 24 years	3	—	3
25 and under 34 years	—	3	3
35 and under 44 years	1	1	2
45 and under 54 years	6	—	6
55 and under 64 years	13	11	24
65 and under 74 years	31	17	48
75 years and over	26	39	65
Totals	83	74	157

SAINT IVES RURAL DISTRICT

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the District over the past 5 years:-

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Population	17,830	17,640	17,980	17,890	19,190
Births					
Total Live Births	331	303	330	342	404
Crude Birth Rate	18·56	17·2	18·4	19·1	21·1
Area Comparability Factor	·97	·97	·97	·97	·97
Corrected Birth Rate	17·9	16·7	17·8	18·5	20·5
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	17·2	16·9	16·3	16·0	16·0

Deaths

Total Deaths	131	152	144	140	157
Crude Death Rate	7·3	8·6	8·0	7·8	8·2
Area Comparability Factor	1·22	1·2	1·22	1·20	1·20
Corrected Death Rate	8·9	10·4	9·8	9·4	9·8
Death Rate (England and Wales)	11·2	11·9	11·9	11·7	11·6

Notifications of Infectious Disease during 1971

	<i>Total cases notified</i>			
Scarlet Fever	.	.	.	2
Whooping Cough	.	.	.	—
Diphtheria	.	.	.	—
Measles	.	.	.	1
Typhoid Fever	.	.	.	—
Paratyphoid Fever	.	.	.	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	.	.	.	—
Infective Hepatitis	.	.	.	3
Food Poisoning	.	.	.	1
Dysentery	.	.	.	—
Acute Meningitis	.	.	.	—
Tuberculosis	.	.	.	3
			Total	10

SAINT IVES RURAL DISTRICT CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's List)

<i>List No.</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
B19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1
B19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	5	2
B19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	—
B19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2

B19 (9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	—
B19 (11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	5
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	—	1
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	—
B46 (3)	Mental Disorders	—	2
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	—	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	1	3
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	24	16
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	4
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	8	15
B46 (6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	5
B32	Pneumonia	7	3
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	4
B46 (7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	—
B34	Peptic Ulcer	—	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1
B46 (8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	2
B46 (9)	Other Diseases. Genito-Urinary System	1	1
B46 (11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	—	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	1	3
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	—
Total All Causes		<u>83</u>	<u>74</u>

SAINT IVES RURAL DISTRICT

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number of persons on Register at
31st December, 1971 ... 25

Pulmonary ... 22 Non-Pulmonary ... 3

Age Periods	New Cases - Diagnosed				New Cases - Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 . .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
(Tel: Cambridge 55526)

Public Analyst,
(S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tenison Road, Cambridge.
(Tel: Cambridge 2097)

(b) Ambulance Service

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel: Huntingdon 53348)

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council carried out home nursing and attended maternity cases in the District.

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres

- (i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council :-

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Infant Welfare	Children (0 - 5 years)	Every Friday and 1st and 3rd Wednesday in month. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Child Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
		1st Monday in month. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton.
		3rd Monday in month. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Youth Centre, Somersham.
		1st Wednesday in month. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
		Alternate Thursdays. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	R.A.F. Station, Wyton.
Dental	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
	Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.

- (ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board :-

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Chest	All Ages	Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Disease	All Cases	Tuesday from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Thursday from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Females	Tuesday from 10.30 a.m. Thursday from 2.00 p.m.	Clinic 5, Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Males	Monday from 5.00 p.m. Wednesday from 5.30 p.m.	

- (iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service :-

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynæcological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Fever – Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Maternity Unit, Primrose Lane, Huntingdon, and Maternity Hospital, Mill Road, Cambridge.

- (f) **Family Planning Clinics**
Huntingdon Held at the Child Health Centre,
Nursery Road, Huntingdon.
Every Wednesday.
7.00 – 8.30 p.m.
*(To make an appointment
call at the Clinic or
telephone Huntingdon 53398
after 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday evenings ONLY)*
- St. Ives** Held at the Child Health Centre,
Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
Every Monday.
9.30 – 11.00 a.m.
*(To make an appointment
call at the Clinic or
telephone St. Ives 62622
during sessions ONLY)*
- St. Neots** Held at the Child Health Centre,
Almond Road, St. Neots.
Tuesday evenings.
7.00 – 9.00 p.m.
1st and 3rd Thursday mornings.
9.30 – 11.30 a.m.
*(To make an appointment
telephone Huntingdon 72261
during session times ONLY)*

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Madam Chairman, Mrs. Buck and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirty-fourth Annual Report on the activities of the Public Health Department in 1971.

The Government's proposals for the Reorganisation of Local Government have gradually crystallised during the year but it appears that the fundamental Public Health function of District Councils including Slum Clearance, Improvement Grants, control of Infectious Diseases, Drainage, Food Hygiene, Pest Control, Refuse Collection, Noise and Smoke abatement, etc., will still remain as a major part of the services to be administered by the new District Councils, and will possibly be grouped together as Environmental Services.

Meanwhile, the Council has continued its policy of providing main drainage schemes in all the villages in the Rural District, before it loses its separate identity in 1974.

The dustbin, too, will finally disappear from the village streets as the programme for their replacement by sackholders and the back door refuse sack collection service is completed in 1972.

My report follows the same lines as in the past and merely reflect the changes in emphasis that occur as old problems, not always completely solved, are replaced by others.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and assistance during the year.

Yours faithfully,

G. H. PHIPPS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

WATER

The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company are responsible for the supply and distribution of water in the district.

The Council has no direct representation on the Board of the Cambridge Water Company but appoints one Member to the Joint Consultation Committee. Similarly it has one representative on the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board.

The Nene and Ouse Water Board supplies water to Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton; the remainder of the district is supplied by the Cambridge Water Company.

During the year no restrictions on the use of water for domestic purposes were imposed by either the Board or the Company, and except in one or two areas, pressures have been adequate.

There is a good network of mains throughout the district extending to the fen areas to the North and East, and further extensions of the mains are completed to isolated farms and cottages from time to time.

The water supplied is extremely hard; up to 500 parts per million from the Joint Board, but the Cambridge Water Company has reduced this to approximately 300 parts per million by mixing softened water from Cambridge (130 parts per million) with the water from the Earith source (500 parts per million).

No fluoride is introduced into the supplies although the Council has advocated fluoridation.

The quality of all the supplies is satisfactory. Both the Joint Board and the Company take annual chemical samples at source and bacteriological samples from their distribution areas once a month.

One Firm operating a large Milk Distribution and Processing Plant has its own private source in the form of a shallow well. The water is chlorinated, softened

to zero degrees and then de-chlorinated before use. Bacteriological examination of this water is carried out daily by the Firm.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts

Three applications for grants in connection with the Cambridge Water Company's proposals for the extension of their water mains to serve isolated farm properties in Heath Road and Puddock Drove, Warboys and Cuckoo Bridge, Somersham, were made to the Ministry by the Council.

These were supported on Public Health grounds as the supply of drinking water at these dwellings was very unsatisfactory.

The application for grants being successful, the necessary guarantees to the Cambridge Water Company were completed and the new supplies provided.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Warboys and Oldhurst

This scheme was not completed by the end of 1971. Massive infiltration into the new sewerage system resulting in the flooding of properties in Station Road, Warboys, occurred on two occasions in August.

Further surveys by the Council's Consulting Engineers have indicated that this was due to infiltration into existing sewers connected to the new system. Extensive modifications were shown to be necessary in the new units provided at Oldhurst Sewage Treatment Works for the reception of night soil and septic tank contents, the main pump well, and the addition of a grit chamber, decanting arms and stirrers to the sludge holding tanks were also required. This work had not been commenced by the end of the year.

The performance of the Disc Filter was very disappointing, and a number of modifications were carried out by the manufacturers after the Council had expressed its dissatisfaction with its performance.

Fenstanton and Hilton

Progress on this scheme was satisfactory during the year, and is due to be completed in September 1972.

Bluntisham, Colne and Earith

This scheme commenced in 1971 and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Broughton

This scheme was included in the contract for Colne, Bluntisham and Earith and was programmed to commence in 1971; completion of the scheme being due in 1972.

Pidley, Wistow and Woodhurst

The Council's Consulting Engineers had not proceeded sufficiently in the design work to enable this scheme to be submitted to the Department of the Environment before the end of the year.

General

It is still anticipated that all the villages will be provided with Main Drainage before 1st April 1974. To enable this target to be reached it will now be necessary to ensure that the sewerage work on the Pidley, Wistow and Woodhurst scheme will proceed simultaneously in each village, together with the additional units at Oldhurst Treatment Works to which the effluents will be pumped.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The 1970 report covered the environmental aspects the River Great Ouse has on the District and, indeed, on a large number of visitors who enjoy the natural amenities it creates as it meanders through Houghton and Wyton, the Hemingfords and Saint Ives to the tidal waters at Earith.

There has been no alteration in the abstraction rate by the various water authorities, who depend on it for the increasing volume of water required for domestic and industrial purposes.

Awarded Watercourses

Although not a Land Drainage Authority, the District Council is still burdened with the cost of the maintenance and cleansing of some 28 miles of Awarded Watercourses under the provisions of the Enclosure Awards.

A summary of the work done on these watercourses in 1971 is included in this report.

The sewer ditches that take both surface water and partially treated sewage from the old parish sewers are gradually improving as main drainage schemes are completed in the villages, and the effluent at the outfalls consists entirely of surface water from roads, roofs and yards, and the occasional land drain.

MAINTENANCE OF AWARDED WATERCOURSES AND SEWER DITCHES

Summary of Completed Works 1971

PARISH Awarded	DESCRIPTION	CHAINS	REMARKS
Hemingford Grey	E5	65.0	Hand
Colne	N13	124	"
Colne	P14	59.0	"
Holywell-cum- Needingworth	Parsons Drove	51	"
	Heath Drain	163.0	"
Bluntisham	Heath Road	60	Machine
Hemingford Abbots	No. 3	100	Hand
Bluntisham	J9	50.5	Machine
Colne	L11	50.0	Hand
Holywell-cum- Needingworth	No. 5	15.0	Hand
Hemingford Grey	No. C3	40	Machine
"	No. D4	60	Hand

SEWER DITCHES

Colne	S17	27.0	Hand
Hemingford Grey/ " Abbots	No. 3	77	Machine
Pidley	Drag Lane	19.0	Hand
Warboys	5 Lengths Sewer Ditches	115.0	"
	New Ditch North, High Street	17.0	"

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Night-Soil Collection

The number of pail lavatories in the district has fallen from over 2,000 in the post-war years, to 230. These are emptied weekly by a Cesspool Emptying Vehicle fitted with a night-soil attachment.

(b) Cesspool Emptying

Two tankers are engaged on this service and the tankering of sludge from Somersham, Needingworth and Hemingfords Sewage Treatment Works to Oldhurst.

During the year 1,028 cesspools and septic tanks were emptied at the request of occupiers.

The charge for this service to householders not on the line of the new public sewers is £1.25 for the first load of 750 gallons and 50p for each additional load.

The charge for the service to houses within 100 ft. of the new foul sewers, which could be connected thereto, is £5 per visit, the increased price being fixed to encourage householders to take advantage of the new main drainage schemes as these are completed in each village.

Facilities for the reception and treatment of night-soil and the contents of septic tanks and cesspools were completed at Oldhurst Sewage Treatment Works during the year.

These facilities were far from satisfactory in operation and the Council's Consulting Engineers have been asked to make several major modifications to overcome the difficulties now apparent in operation. But these modifications had not been finalised by the end of the year.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal

By the end of the year all the houses in the district with the exception of those in Fenstanton and Hilton had been supplied with sackholders. The transition from dustbin to paper sacks has gone smoothly; here and there the occasional householder has learnt quite quickly that hot ashes in a plastic sack means a minor disaster.

The sackholders are well guarded but sacks are not immune from attacks by rats and mice. In the few instances of this nature which have occurred, it has been the policy of the Department to deal with the rodents rather than improve the type of sackholder provided.

The refuse is collected by three 35 cubic yard compression type vehicles, each vehicle being manned by a team of three driver-loaders.

The refuse is tipped at two worked out gravel pits at Somersham and Hemingford Grey; the former tip being used only in an emergency. The refuse is spread and levelled by a bulldozer but there is no earth cover available to seal the tips.

The Council have a contract with a Pest Control Company for the regular baiting of the tips to control rats. Insects are controlled by sprays and powders operated by direct labour.

CIVIC AMENITIES

The two refuse tips are available for Ratepayers in the district to dispose of unwanted vehicles and bulky refuse. The Council has a contract with a local firm for the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles at the Council's tips.

Following a report by the Department the Council decided to purchase a Land Rover and large capacity trailer to assist those householders who were unable to move their bulky refuse. This service is run in

conjunction with the service provided for the summer maintenance of open spaces and play areas on Housing Estates.

In practice this ensures that full use is made of vehicles and labour through both the summer and winter months. That there is a growing need for the collection of bulky refuse is apparent by the accumulations of household junk that is dumped indiscriminately in the district, some blatantly — some less conspicuously.

There is also a substantial increase in the amount of garden refuse mixed in with the dumped junk, which doubtless arises from the erection of substantial housing estates in both urban and rural communities with high density development.

Litter Receptacles

A number of Parish Councils have provided litter bins at suitable points. Suggestions as to the best type of receptacle to be provided are made to the Parish Councils. The receptacles are emptied on the normal refuse collection days in each parish, but in the hot weather they can give rise to nuisance when not emptied more frequently and it is difficult for the parishes to find anybody to undertake the work.

SWIMMING POOLS

The enclosed and heated Swimming Pool at Saint Ivo School, Saint Ives, which was a joint project by the County, Borough and Rural District Councils, has proved to be very popular since its official opening in September 1970.

Small swimming pools have been provided at some Primary Schools in the villages out of funds raised by Parent Teacher Associations. These pools are all equipped with filtration and chlorination plant and are periodically inspected by the Department.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA

(a) Housing Inspections

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	220
Re-Inspections	34
Number of Preliminary Notices served	463
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	442
Number of Statutory Notices served	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	—

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937 – 1961

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	5	3	2	Nil
2. Section 7	57	48	26	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	62	51	28	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of
the inspection.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	8	8	0	0	0
Over- crowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	4	4	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	21	21	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	37	37	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—

As can be seen by reference to the above table most infringements found on routine factory inspections are connected with the general condition of the sanitary conveniences. In other respects most premises appear quite satisfactory.

(c) Inspections under Statutes

Moveable Dwellings	61
Dumps, Tips	239
Public Cleansing	173
Offensive Trades	5
Butchers' Premises	37
Shops and Offices	114
Pumps, Wells	16
Drains	450
General Public Health	414
Swimming Pools	12
Preserved Foods, etc.	15
Petroleum Stores, etc.	120
Infectious Diseases	39
Ice Cream	14
Disinfestations	206
Food Regulations	102
Sewage Works	503
Improvement Grants	387
Drainage Schemes	477
Conversion Grants	126
Housing Sites	485
Total	3,956

In connection with the inspections itemised above, 463 Informal Notices were served, and whilst on no occasion was it found necessary to resort to legal proceedings some of the complaints required a great deal of tact and patience to bring about satisfactory results.

CARAVAN SITES

No discontinuance orders were made by the County Council in respect of planning permission, therefore, the total number of licensed sites in the district is now 46. Of these only 3 sites have more than 20 residential caravans, whilst 27 sites contain only one.

RODENT CONTROL

A contract with Ratsouris Ltd. for the control of infestation of rats and mice in all houses in the district continued during the year. This contract also covers the Council's refuse tips, but rodent control in sewers is undertaken by the direct labour staff. The Council consider that the occupiers of Agricultural holdings could make similar arrangements with commercial Pest Control firms if they so desired. This firm at present under contract, also deal with wasps' nests at residential premises, a service much appreciated by the public.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

General statistics compiled from the reports on registered premises are as follows:-

Classification of Premises

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number of Premises registered</i>	<i>Number of employees</i>
Offices	18	52
Shops (Retail)	39	70
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	3	20
Catering Establishments	4	15
Canteens (included in above)	3	6
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0
Totals	67	163
	Total Males	72
	Total Females	91

Three premises were registered with the Council during the year. In connection with these premises, informal notices were served on the respective occupiers outlining the infringements found when inspections effecting registration were made. Routine inspections of these, and all other registered premises will be made in order to ensure that they are brought up to and maintained in a satisfactory condition.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

One further licence was approved during the year for boarding 20 dogs. This establishment, together with those existing, provide accommodation in the district for 142 dogs and 75 cats. Enforcement of infringements of the respective licensing conditions is made comparatively easy because of the fact that such licences are renewable annually.

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE

At the end of the year the Council had represented 299 houses as unfit for human habitation since 1952; the records show that 145 were demolished, 60 were made fit, 51 are vacant, 3 were converted for other purposes and 40 are still occupied. The latter does not mean that 35 families are currently waiting to be rehoused, because many of them are quite content to live their lives out in their present accommodation, and undertakings have been made in respect of such houses, not to re-let when they become vacant. Of the vacant houses many are part of small terraces and semis and further action cannot be taken until the adjoining houses are also vacated.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of improvement grant applications this year was 60, of which one was withdrawn, the remainder being approved.

Standard Grants amounting to £4,330 were made in respect of 18 houses, and Discretionary Grants amounting to £27,202 were made in respect of 41 houses, averages of approximately £240 and £663 respectively.

In all, the Council has approved grants totalling £161,132.

Water Closet Conversion Grants

The number of water closet conversion grant applications this year was 15, all of which were approved.

Grants amounting to £846 were made in respect of 15 conversions, an average of approximately £56 per conversion.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The concept of the 'village stores' is gradually changing and in the rapidly developing villages modern self-service stores are appearing that are provided with up-to-date equipment and adequate storage rooms.

The work by the Department during the year on the subject of Food Hygiene has been mainly of an instructive and educational character. No final solution to the problem of stock rotation of perishable foods is possible until all manufacturers of these products print the day of production on their packages. Meanwhile the Department continues to stress the importance of stock rotation to shopkeepers to prevent the sale of unsound food. The General Public, now more aware of the activities of the Department in relation to the soundness of any type of food for human consumption do not hesitate to contact us. As is natural, the majority of such complaints continue to be made at weekends, when the bulk of the weekly shopping is done.

Containerised imported foodstuffs are now permitted uninterrupted passage through the docks by the Port Health Authorities on the condition that they are not opened until arrival at their inland destination, and these are inspected by the appropriate District Health Authority.

This change in procedure by virtue of the Imported Food Regulations has resulted in an increasing number of visits to the wholesale food warehouses in the district in order to inspect containers of food.

MILK SUPPLY

The bulk of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, one of which has installed photo-electrical scanning equipment in its new bottling plant to detect and reject any bottles that fail to come up to the standard of cleanliness required or show other abnormalities. This action has certainly reduced the number of complaints received by the Department in respect of dirty milk bottles or bottles containing foreign bodies.

ICE CREAM

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district ; practically all the retailers insure against power failures and do not hesitate to request the Department to inspect their stock after electricity failures.

Over the years, ice cream has developed into a sophisticated food enjoyed by young and old alike. All new premises registered by the Council during the year continued the normal trend of selling prepacked brands manufactured and distributed by 'national' firms.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area. All the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers buying direct from wholesalers or from local fatstock markets, and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

By arrangements with the Council and two neighbouring Authorities, the Department assist in the inspection of meat at Abattoirs in those districts in any emergency.

Small quantities of tinned meat, fruit and other foods were condemned during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows :-

Bakers	4
Butchers	8
Cafés and Canteens . . .	11
Confectioners	2
Fish Shops	4
General Stores	54
Greengrocers	5
Licensed Premises	31
Wholesale Food Warehouses	3

The shops are small and are mostly owner-occupied, very few shop assistants being employed.

ADULTERATION

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could with advantage, be taken by the Department.

